

From: wmccconnell@compuserve.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:36pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I was recently made aware of my rights under the Tunney Act to voice my opinion regarding the proposed settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust trial. I would like to state, in no uncertain terms, that I am opposed to the terms of the settlement as they stand now.

How is it that a company can abuse its monopoly position (as I understand, Microsoft was found guilty of this crime) and then be allowed to maintain that monopoly? How is it that the only punishment for someone who breaks this law is they are told they can no longer break it?

I am particularly incensed that Microsoft may be allowed, as part of its "punishment," to force its software on schoolchildren (another generation of captive customers) thereby making it that much easier to perpetuate its monopoly for decades to come. The fact that Microsoft will only point to this as some act of public good is even more appalling.

I do not want to sound maudlin, but how, in the years to come, do I explain this to my young children? Perhaps it won't matter, because if this settlement is allowed, they may have no other legal choice than to use Microsoft software anyway.

Microsoft has proven, through repeated action in and out of the courtroom, that it has no respect for the government of the United States. If this is truly "government of the people, by the people, and for the people," then I can only presume that their lack of respect extends to me.

Please reconsider this settlement. Microsoft must be truly punished for what it has done to true, healthy competition in the computer industry.

Thank you for your time.

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